

**§ 29.2351**

**7 CFR Ch. I (1–1–03 Edition)**

**ELEMENTS OF QUALITY**

**§ 29.2351 Elements of quality and degrees of each element.**

Tobacco attributes or characteristics which constitute quality are designated as elements of quality. The range within each element is expressed by words or terms designated as degrees. These degrees are arranged to show their relative value and are used in determining the quality of tobacco. The actual value of each degree varies with group.

Elements	Degrees		
Body .....	Thin .....	Medium .....	Heavy.
Maturity .....	Immature .....	Mature .....	Ripe.
Leaf structure .....	Close .....	Firm .....	Open.
Oil .....	Lean .....	Oily .....	Rich.
Elasticity .....	Inelastic .....	Semielastic ..	Elastic.
Strength .....	Weak .....	Normal .....	Strong.
Finish .....	Dull .....	Clear .....	Bright.
Color Intensity.	Pale .....	Moderate .....	Deep.
Width .....	Narrow .....	Normal .....	Spready Broad.
Uniformity. Expressed in percentages.			
Injury tolerance. Expressed in percentages.			

**SIZES**

**§ 29.2371 Standard sizes.<sup>1</sup>**

Inches	Size
12–20 .....	1
20–28 .....	2
Over 28 .....	3

<sup>1</sup> The application of sizes is governed by the major portion of the lot or package.

[51 FR 40406, Nov. 7, 1986]

**RULES**

**§ 29.2391 Rules.**

The application of these official standard grades shall be in accordance with the following rules.

**§ 29.2392 Rule 1.**

Each grade shall be treated as a subdivision of a particular type. When the grade is stated in an inspection certificate, the type also shall be stated.

**§ 29.2393 Rule 2.**

The determination of a grade shall be based upon a thorough examination of a lot of tobacco or of an official sample of the lot.

**§ 29.2394 Rule 3.**

In drawing an official sample from a hogshead or other package of tobacco, two or more breaks shall be made at such points and in such manner as the inspector or sampler may find necessary to determine the kinds of tobacco and the percentage of each kind contained in the lot. All breaks shall be made so that the tobacco contained in the center of the package is visible to the sampler. Tobacco shall be drawn from at least two breaks from which a representative sample shall be selected.

**§ 29.2395 Rule 4.**

All standard grades must be clean.

**§ 29.2396 Rule 5.**

The grade assigned to any lot of tobacco shall be a true representation of the tobacco at the time of inspection and certification. If, at any time, it is found that a lot of tobacco does not comply with the specifications of the grade previously assigned it shall not thereafter be represented as such grade.

**§ 29.2397 Rule 6.**

A lot of tobacco on the marginal line between two colors shall be placed in the color with which it best corresponds with respect to body or other associated elements of quality.

**§ 29.2398 Rule 7.**

Any lot of tobacco which meets the specifications of two grades shall be placed in the higher grade. Any lot of tobacco on the marginal line between two grades shall be placed in the lower grade.

**§ 29.2399 Rule 8.**

A lot of tobacco meets the specifications of a grade when it is not lower in any degree of any element of quality than the minimum specifications of such grade.

**§ 29.2400 Rule 9.**

In determining the grade of a lot of tobacco, the lot as a whole shall be considered. Minor irregularities which do not affect over 1 percent of the tobacco shall be overlooked.